

Missouri

ENTERPRISE

MAY - JUNE 2004

Volume 24, No. 3

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

State launches comprehensive job matching Web site



On June 1, the Division of Workforce Development launched a new, streamlined online employment system - GreatHires.org - which is designed to better meet the needs of Missouri businesses and job seekers in the 21st century by easing the process of matching qualified

job seekers with quality Missouri employers.

The new Missouri-based job matching system replaces Missouri WORKS!, which went online in August 1995 as the state's first publicly funded job bank system. The old job bank had become outdated over the last decade due to significant changes in advanced technologies and the way we now do business. In response to the need for change, the Division sought out opinions from job seekers, business leaders, human resource managers and other workforce professionals across the state to create the new GreatHires.org Web site.

The new system already boasts over 120,000 registered business locations and more than 12,500 job openings. There are also more than 270,000 individuals of varying skill and professional levels actively using the system to find employment. And, as before, there is no cost to either individuals or businesses that use this system.

How does it work? If you were registered on Missouri WORKS!, simply log on to GreatHires.org and enter your user name and password on any computer - at home, in the library or at a Missouri Career Center - and your information will automatically be brought online. If you are a new user, simply click on register and enter the appropriate account information as prompted by the site.

How is it different? The new system literally goes to work for its clients 24 hours a day, seven

days a week. For job seekers, GreatHires.org provides a multitude of valuable tools to help them take their careers to the next level. GreatHires.org also is designed to help businesses save time and money by offering a convenient and quick tool for locating and screening qualified employees.

GreatHires.org automatically matches an individual's qualifications with job openings in the database and, through a new messaging system, immediately notifies a business when there is a job/candidate match. The business then can send an instantaneous message to the qualified candidate to which he or she can respond. The site also allows businesses increased control over job matches through new screening options and an automatic ranking system, producing the best-matched applicants first.

Key Economic Development Legislation Passes in 2004

Two major legislative initiatives were approved by the Missouri General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Bob Holden this year, which will have a significant impact on the state's economic development efforts.

One of Holden's top legislative priorities, the Jobs Now economic development program, was included in Senate Bill 1155 and received unanimous approval from the Missouri House and Senate.

During the 2004 session, legislators also approved Senate Bill 1099, which includes many of the reforms proposed by Gov. Holden to increase oversight of Missouri's tax credit system and hold tax credit recipients to higher standards.

Holden praised the bi-partisan cooperation from legislators, local economic development leaders from across the state and staff at the Department of Economic Development for coming together to deal with important issues related to jobs and economic growth.

Jobs Now repeals or sunsets the Transportation Tax Credit, Research and Development Tax Credit, Mature Worker Tax Credit, and Skill Development Tax Credit and redirects the savings from these programs to provide funds for local infrastructure needs, re-training of workers and other economic development programs. It will help continue Missouri's job growth momentum, creating jobs in the short term while laying a foundation for long-term job and economic growth.

The Tax Credit Accountability Act approved by the legislature in SB1099, was the result of an effort between the Governor, Department of Economic Development, members of the legislature, and community and business leaders across the state to make changes in tax credit programs.

In addition, the state budget creates positions and provides funding for three tax credit auditors in the Department of Economic Development. Currently the department does not have any auditors for this purpose.

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Aging workforce is changing Missouri's labor market dynamics

As the Baby Boomer generation ages, it is changing the demographics and dynamics of the nation's and Missouri's labor markets.

According to a new report issued in May, "A Profile of Older Workers in Missouri," the state's workforce is aging with the percentage of workers age 45 to 64 increasing by 5.5 percent to 31 percent between 1995 and 2002. The proportion of Missourians 65 years and older who continue working has also increased slightly to 3.0 percent. The percentage of workers between 14 and 44 years old dropped to 66 percent in 2002 from 72 percent in 1995.

The report was generated through the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program, a partnership between the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) and the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition to identifying the age composition of the state's workforce, the report identifies which industries are likely to be affected by the aging of the workforce, which are the most likely to employ older workers, which have the lowest turnover rates of older workers, and how much older workers earn.

The real estate and local/suburban transit industries have the greatest concentration of older workers, with more than one in five workers in Missouri being 55 years and older in 2002. More than 5,000 older workers are employed in Missouri's real estate industry. Air transportation and apparel manufacturing in the state also have large percentages of older workers.

The industries that created the most jobs for workers 55 years and older were business services, with 1,190 jobs created on average per quarter, followed by eating and drinking places with 1,019 jobs, and health services with 908 jobs. Business services and eating and drinking places, however, also have a high turnover rate for older workers.

The highest paying industries for older workers in 2002 were security/commodity brokers, non-depository institutions, holding/investment offices, paper/allied products manufacturing and legal services.

The analysis of Missouri's older workers can be found on the DED Web site at www.missourieconomy.org or at <http://ledh.dsd.census.gov> on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site.



state of employment

Employment increased by one percent, or 27,600 jobs in June, placing Missouri first among the states for job growth during that period and returning to the strong growth trend that has prevailed most of this year. As a result of the improving job outlook, the state's unemployment rate increased slightly as more workers were encouraged to re-enter the labor force due to better job prospects.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up by a tenth of a point to 5.2 percent in June, a rate that is six-tenths of a point lower than it was a year earlier. Missouri's unemployment rate continued to be lower than the nation's rate, which was unchanged at 5.6 percent in June.

Missouri's unadjusted rate increased to 5.4 percent, reflecting the usual summer increase that occurs when students and other summer jobseekers enter the labor force. This rate is also six-tenths of a point below the corresponding June 2003 figure and four-tenths of a point lower than the national unadjusted unemployment rate, which increased by five-tenths of a point in June to 5.8 percent.

Although unemployment has edged back up since dropping sharply in January, so has the labor force and the number of individuals employed. According to economists with the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center, this phenomenon is consistent with the "encouraged worker effect" in which unemployment tends to increase for a while when rapid employment growth resumes, as workers encouraged by better job prospects re-enter the labor force.

Non-farm payrolls increased by 27,600 jobs, reaching 2,740,700 on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since February, employment has grown in each month except May, when it was flat. Net growth over that four-month period has been 71,300 jobs.

Industry employment detail show seasonally adjusted employment up in June in all the reported supersectors except construction, which was down by 400 jobs, and manufacturing, which was unchanged from May.

In the private sector, the largest increases were in education and health services (8,200), professional and business services (4,400), leisure and hospitality (3,800), other services (2,000), and financial activities (1,400).



calendar

July 19-20 2004 Missouri Summit on Life Sciences
St. Louis

September 6 Labor Day
State Offices Closed

October 6-8 Workforce Development Conference
Osage Beach

STATE FUNDING WILL PREPARE SOUTHEAST MISSOURI YOUTH FOR high-tech jobs

The Missouri Department of Economic Development awarded a \$156,355 demonstration grant to the Southeast Region Workforce Investment Board in June to implement an e-learning program at the Pemiscot County Vocational School. The program will help prepare Southeast Missouri youth for high technology, 21st century jobs.

Kelvin Simmons, director of DED, presented the ceremonial check to Ken Boyer, president and chief operating officer of the Workforce Investment Board of Southeast Missouri, and Nick Thiele, superintendent of the Pemiscot County Special School District, at the district office in Hayti.

The grant, issued by the department's Division of Workforce Development, will fund the Cisco Networking Academy Program over a three-year period through a contract with the Southeast Region Workforce Investment Board. The academy will help enhance information technology curriculum at the Pemiscot County Vocational School.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a comprehensive e-learning program that provides junior, senior or college-level students, ages 14-21, with Internet technology skills essential in a global economy. The program delivers web-based content; online assessment; student performance tracking; hands-on labs; instructor training and support; and preparation for industry standard certification. The program will also help students improve math, science, writing and problem-solving abilities while instilling in them the ability to work productively with others.

The Southeast Region WIB will collaborate with the Pemiscot County Special School District and Southeast Missouri State University to create this unique academic atmosphere, with participation beginning in high schools and continuing on into college.

Students who complete the program and elect to continue their education will have several options. The Southeast Region WIB, through a contract with Pemiscot County Vocational School, will have articulation agreements with Three Rivers Community College in Poplar Bluff and Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville so that students there can earn college credits while completing the Cisco Program.



State grant supports efforts to increase health-related careers in Kansas City

A state grant will assist the Full Employment Council boost the placement of unemployed and under-employed workers, students and interns in health-related careers throughout the Kansas City region.

The Missouri Division of Workforce Development awarded an \$119,000 grant in May to the Full Employment Council (FEC). This grant is specifically earmarked for FEC to support a Health Resource Partners (HRP) initiative, with the goal to increase health-related jobs for all Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligible candidates in the greater Kansas City area.

HRP, in collaboration with the Missouri Division of Workforce Development and the Full Employment Council, will facilitate the placement of students, job candidates and interns at participating Health Care Works institutions. It will also further identify employers for job placement of participants who complete training and obtain training certifications.

HRP is a non-profit collaborative health care services network based in the Kansas City region. The group, which receives funding from a variety of sources, brings together employers, educators and professional organizations to share resources and create initiatives to better prepare the local health care workforce to meet the community's current and future health needs.

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Key Economic Development Legislation passes in 2004

Provisions of the Jobs Now Act include:

- Provides grants and low interest loans for public infrastructure projects from local entities across the state. In the first year, \$12 million will be set aside for infrastructure projects. Funds will often help leverage federal funds or other private or local funds.
- Creates Enhanced Enterprise Zones, which will help more communities benefit from Missouri's growing economy. State tax credits will be capped at \$4 million annually but will increase to \$7 million in 2007.
- Creates the Community College Job Retraining Program, which allows community colleges to provide retraining and other program services to stable companies who are at risk of relocating and have made investments in upgrading their facilities and their workers' skills to remain competitive.

Provisions of the Tax Credit Accountability Act include:

- Mandates that additional information be provided to the state prior to the issuance of any tax credit.
- Mandates a review by the Joint Committee on Tax Policy of any tax credit program audited by the state auditor to assess the public benefit of the program.
- Requires those who receive tax credits to report back to the administering agency annually for three years regarding the progress of a project.
- Assesses penalties for tax credit recipients that do not meet the annual reporting requirements. Requires the administering agencies to report to the Departments of Revenue and Insurance when a tax credit recipient fails to meet annual reporting requirements. If a taxpayer has not paid the penalties and tries to redeem tax credits, the amount of tax credits is reduced accordingly.
- Requires administering agencies, prior to the authorization of any tax credits, to check with the Departments of Revenue and Insurance to determine if the applicant is delinquent in any taxes, and if so, to reduce the amount of tax credits accordingly.
- Requires all agencies issuing or redeeming tax credits to use one system in monitoring and tracking tax credits.
- Provides increased public access to information regarding tax credit recipients.

State awards grants for community facility projects

The Missouri Department of Economic Development has granted more than \$1.8 million to nine Missouri communities, enabling construction of central facilities from which residents can receive key services.

Community facility grants, administered by the Department of Economic Development's Community Development Division, are awarded annually through a competitive rating process. The grants are funded through federal sources.

Communities receiving the grants in May included:

City of Bunker

\$249,992 - Sheltered Workshop

Clark County

\$49,839 - Revere Fire Department

Higginsville

\$300,000 - Higginsville Senior Center

Mexico

\$135,000 - Sheltered Workshop

Middletown

\$199,600 - Community Center

Montgomery County

\$99,000 - We Care Ministries Food Pantry

Pacific

\$300,000 - Tri County Senior Center

Scotland County

\$300,00 - Head Start

Truesdale

\$226,300 - Sheltered Workshop

Examples of community facilities that are eligible for funds include day care, youth, community and senior centers; and rural health clinics not funded by the state. Community facility grants may also be used to install computer hardware for public access to telecommunications services.

Kirkwood Service-Learning Coordinator receives prestigious award

Barbara Wolken, Commissioner and Service Committee Chair for the Missouri Community Service Commission, presented the 2004 Carnahan Service and Volunteer Award to Jan Schuster of Kirkwood at the America's Service Commission Conference Dinner on June 4 at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City.

In Schuster's absence, the award was accepted by Rick Skinner, Volunteer Center Director of the United Way of Greater St. Louis. Skinner, along with Beth Nickle, Chairman of the Missouri Service-Learning Advisory Council at Bailey Alternative High School in Springfield, nominated Schuster for the award.

Schuster received the award for her outstanding achievement and long-term volunteer service in Missouri and throughout the nation. She is credited with starting the Learn and Serve America program in the Kirkwood School District and volunteers as their part-time Service-Learning Coordinator. She has donated hundreds of hours to teaching others about service-learning, participating in local students' projects and helping others develop service-learning programs. She was also instrumental in creating the Missouri Service-Learning Advisory Council, a group that provides guidance, institutional

memory and leadership for Missouri, and has served as the council's chair.

She also serves on a variety of committees, boards and groups at the local, state and national levels including the St. Louis Partners for Service-Learning, the Glendale-Kirkwood

Kiwanis Club, the Missouri Service Learning Advisory Council, the Missouri Community Service Commission, the National Service-Learning Partnership and the National Service-Learning Exchange.

The Governor Carnahan Service and Volunteer Award was created by the Missouri Community Service Commission to recognize the late Governor's commitment to service and to the citizens of the state of Missouri. This award recognizes one outstanding volunteer from Missouri who has exhibited a long-term commitment to volunteerism in the pursuit of improving communities and changing lives.



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State launches comprehensive job matching Web site

An advanced profiling system showcases the job seeker's experience, education, skills and contact information. A streamlined 5-step job posting process saves businesses more time and gives candidates quicker access to job openings than the state's previous system.

Another new feature is the personal homepage, which is automatically created for each user. The homepage is used to store search results, position descriptions or job postings, and contacts with applicants/businesses or Missouri Career Center staff.

Through a new automated process, the system now matches associate lay titles used by job applicants with industry titles. This feature provides businesses with greater flexibility in listing their job descriptions, while eliminating the difficulty that individuals once experienced when having to choose from outdated job titles.

The new site also allows individuals who have lost a job to use GreatHires.org to file for unemployment insurance with the Division of Employment Security and do the required reporting online.

Anyone can benefit from the new system, whether you are computer literate or not. Log on to www.greathires.org today or contact staff at Missouri Career Centers throughout the state for personalized assistance. They can demonstrate how the new system works or provide a multitude of other services available through a number of state and local agencies.



*To find the Career Center nearest you,
call 1-888-728-JOBS (5627).*

Holden Recommends 10 Economic Growth Projects to Delta Regional Authority

Gov. Bob Holden recommended 10 projects totaling \$420,582 for funding by the federal Delta Regional Authority in June. If approved, the projects will help stimulate economic growth and create jobs in the southeast part of the state. All of the projects were recommended to Holden by the Missouri Commission on the Delta Regional Authority, which met May 21 to review and rate 25 pre-applications totaling \$3.8 million.

"My goal is to see that all parts of Missouri benefit from our state's current economic momentum. These projects will help create jobs in Southeast Missouri," said Holden. "I am pleased to forward these recommendations on."

Dr. Kenneth Dobbins, president of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and chair of the Missouri commission, said that requests for Delta Regional Authority funds were far greater than Missouri's allocation again this year. In addition to recommending 10 projects to Governor Holden, the committee used their collective knowledge to come up with alternate funding resources for several other projects.

"The majority of these projects are seeking funds to help make infrastructure improvements that will better prepare these communities to create jobs and economic growth," said Holden. "The fact that there is a much larger demand for funding than there are resources for these types of projects reinforces the importance of my Jobs Now initiative. As a result, communities throughout the state, including those who were seeking 2004 DRA funding, will soon be able to seek assistance through the Jobs Now Fund."

The DRA has just over \$3.5 million to allocate to the eight states in the designated Delta Region this year. Federal funding was significantly less than the \$6.1 million allocated last year by Congress. Last August, Governor Holden recommended 10 projects totaling more than \$740,225 from Missouri, which were approved.

The Delta Regional Authority was created by legislation signed by President Bill Clinton in December of 2000 and is a partnership serving 236 counties, 29 of which are located in southeastern Missouri. Those counties include: Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Shannon, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne, and Wright.

Besides Missouri, other states served by the Authority are: Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas. The governors of all eight states serve on the DRA board.

Projects recommended by Holden were invited to apply to the federal Delta Regional Authority in June. The Authority is expected to make final funding decisions in August.

Missouri features collaboration as hallmark of bioscience success at international BIO Conference

The State of Missouri and its bioscience partners presented a compelling roster of participants and a strong presence at the BIO 2004 Annual International Convention, the world's largest biotechnology event, held June 6-9 at San Francisco's Moscone Center. More than 16,000 biotech executives, investors, journalists, policymakers and scientists from more than 55 countries attended the event.

Missouri partners were highlighted at the convention with a pavilion, demonstrating how the Show-Me State is "Guiding Discovery" in the biosciences. Missouri's bioscience organizations represented at the Guiding Discovery Pavilion included the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA), Monsanto and the Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute. There were also many examples of education, healthcare and commercial success in Missouri displayed at five distinct stations: Knowledge Sharing, Tech Transfer, Plant Science, Life Science and Building for Discovery.

Department of Economic Development Director Kelvin Simmons and Department of Agriculture Director Peter Hofherr led Missouri's delegation. Industry leaders who attended included Robb Fraley, chief technology officer at Monsanto; Bob Calcaterra, president and CEO of the Nidus Center for Scientific Enterprise; Dick Fleming, president and CEO of the St. Louis RCGA; and Bob Marcusse, president and CEO of the Kansas City Area Development Council.

The BIO convention has led to successful ventures in Missouri. Centocor, a Pennsylvania-based biomedicine manufacturer, and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals established a relationship that eventually resulted in Centocor purchasing Wyeth's St. Louis manufacturing facility. This protected about 300 jobs and may create more down the road.

Other areas of the state are also experiencing success in the life sciences. For example, life sciences research expenditures in the Kansas City area doubled from \$100 million to \$200 million between 1999 and 2003.

Missouri Projects Recommended for Delta Regional Authority Funding

City of Winona - \$25,000 for stormwater drainage improvements in the downtown area and the city's industrial park.

City of Perryville - \$25,000 to help offset costs involved in constructing a new turn lane into TG Missouri, one of the city's major employers. These road improvements will help facilitate the company's expansion, which will result in the creation of 50 new jobs.

Southeast Missouri State University - \$31,000 to purchase equipment for the SMO Innovation Center. The Innovation Center will provide technical/food science support and business counseling in marketing, financing, accounting and business planning to entrepreneurs interested in the food industry.

Bollinger County - \$25,000 to help offset costs associated with replacing Laffin Bridge, which has been closed since November 2003. Construction of the bridge will provide access for three communities while eliminating lengthy detours for business, agricultural, and school bus traffic.

Dent County Industrial Development Authority - \$44,582 to enlarge its current facility, which is leased to Daisy Outdoor Products. The expansion will allow the manufacturer to expand and add at least 60 jobs.

City of Bourbon - \$40,000 to facilitate waterline improvements that will provide access to a part of town currently not served by the city's system, as well as the new industrial park.

City of Kennett - \$30,000 to facilitate road improvements that will add a street and another access route to the city's industrial park. The road improvements will ease traffic congestion expected from the expansion of Steel Technologies and the resulting new employees.

New Madrid Port Authority - \$50,000 to offset costs to purchase truck scales for the port's industrial park, which will increase the productive capacity of the public dock.

City of Scott City - \$100,000 for the construction of Ramsey Creek Bridge, which will connect the two halves of Scott City and allow direct access to a 300-acre developable site for future economic development opportunities.

St. John Levee and Drainage District - \$50,000 to offset costs involved in providing flood control and retention areas, alleviating annual flooding of the city of East Prairie and opening up the flood prone areas to future economic development.

Holden wraps up 46th Annual Business Development

Gov. Bob Holden made closing remarks at the 46th Annual Governor's Business Development Conference on May 21. During the awards luncheon he touted Missouri's strong economic momentum and good job growth.

"We have witnessed strong signs of economic momentum in Missouri for more than a year," Holden said. "At the same time, our state is making sound progress in its transition into the knowledge-based economy."

Holden announced that several of the components of his JOBS NOW initiative, which were recently passed in a bipartisan fashion by the General Assembly, will strengthen education and workforce skills, increase business competitiveness, build infrastructure capacity, make critical investments in our communities and reform government, primarily by repealing certain tax credit programs.

"We must continue to be aggressive and creative in our approaches, through initiatives like JOBS NOW, to ensure Missouri has a prosperous economic future."

Holden also presented awards to more than a dozen individuals and organizations for their outstanding achievement in economic, community, and workforce development and film production throughout the year.

Other conference highlights included remarks by futurist Bob Treadway, of Treadway & Assoc., who gave his perspective about Missouri's course for transitioning into the knowledge-based economy at the opening keynote luncheon on Thursday. The luncheon was followed by three general sessions.

The first two general sessions were conducted as panel discus-



FUTURIST - Bob Treadway, of Treadway & Assoc.

sions, in which prominent Missouri life sciences leaders shared their knowledge of the industry, followed by representatives from three cutting edge Missouri companies who shared their insight about the importance of innovation in the knowledge-based economy. The final general session enabled conference goers to learn more about the important economic development bills that passed during the recent legislative session.

Prior to the governor's role Friday, four concurrent sessions were conducted on adapting to the new economic development environment, enhancements to the Missouri Community Assessment Program, the importance of tourism in over-all economic development, and a new initiative known as The Educator Institute. The closing general session spotlighted the Boeing Company, and was presented by Chris Murray, regional manager of Europe International Business Development.

MISSOURI ENTERPRISE

Missouri Enterprise is the official publication of the Missouri Department of Economic Development. Submit your articles to: Missouri Enterprise, P.O. Box 1157, Jefferson City, MO 65102. For phone inquiries call (573) 751- 4962.

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Governor recognizes outstanding achievements in economic development

At the closing luncheon of the 46th Annual Governor's Business Development Conference, Governor Bob Holden and Kelvin Simmons, director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, presented the 2004 Governor's Business Development Awards to winners in twelve community, economic development and film categories.

Five communities were also recognized for successfully completing the Missouri Community Assessment Program. All-Missouri Certified City awards were presented to the cities of Lebanon, Mansfield, Mountain Grove and Norwood. The community of Newburg received a Star City award.

JOBS

Skills - Education - Innovation

PROCLAMATION

Governor Bob Holden presented a proclamation to conference planner Terry Boldt (far right with DED Director Kelvin Simmons in the background). Boldt, who will retire in October, was honored for his distinguished service and longtime commitment to promoting economic and community development through numerous conferences and events. His leadership has been instrumental in fundraising, planning and coordinating the annual Governor's Conference on Business Development for the last two decades.



2004 Conference Award winners included:



- **Small Business of the Year**, recognizing a small business that has experienced significant growth, improved internal processes or developed a business or marketing plan to improve the business
- Grandma's Cool & Zesty Dressing, Jefferson City



- **Community Development Award**, recognizing a local community development organization or a city that has achieved a community economic development project despite specific disadvantages
- Jasper County Long Term Disaster Relief Committee and the city of Springfield - Jordan Valley Park Project



- **Exporter of the Year**, recognizing a Missouri exporting company that has shown significant gains in the international arena - American Pulverizer Company, St. Louis



- **Governor's Technology of the Year**, recognizing a company that has developed new technology or adopted/applied innovative manufacturing or business practices - Kereos, Inc., St. Louis



- **Innovative Training/Workforce Development of the Year**, recognizing the commitment of a business to provide effective and/or innovative skills training for new or existing workers - True Fitness Technology, Inc., O'Fallon



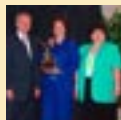
- **Urban Project of the Year**, recognizing a company for a specific new location or expansion in urban Missouri - Ford Motor Company, Hazelwood



- **Career Service in Economic Development**, recognizing an individual who has dedicated his or her career and service to economic development in Missouri - Lynda Andrews, St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association



- **Rural Economic Developer of the Year**, recognizing an individual(s) from a rural community who has shown outstanding work in the area of economic development - Mark Fuqua and Robin Fitzgerald, Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, Perry



- **Missouri Cinema Partnership Award**, recognizing an individual(s) or organizational partner who provided extraordinary service to help secure and assist major motion picture production in Missouri - Lorah Steiner and Beth Mead, Columbia Convention and Visitors Bureau



- **Urban Economic Developer of the Year**, recognizing an individual from an urban community who has shown outstanding work in the area of economic development - Gary Sage, Kansas City Economic Development Corporation

Not in Attendance

- **Missouri Film Commission Volunteer of the Year**, recognizing an individual citizen who devoted his or her own time to help bring major film production to Missouri - Kim Tucci, chair of the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission

NEWSBRIEFS

State tax credits awarded for Cupples Building project

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) approved up to \$1 million in remediation tax credits through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program for the Cupples Building #7 project located at 1014 Spruce in St. Louis. The tax credits will facilitate the acceptance of a donation by the organization Downtown Now! to complete the remediation and demolish the building.

The property will be used as green space, until further development of the site occurs. Downtown Now! intends to develop the site as a new office building.

The current building has been vacant since 1995 and is contaminated by asbestos and lead-based paint. The planned demolition and redevelopment is part of the overall Cupples-St. Louis revitalization project, which involves the development of a four-building complex, housing offices and retail stores.

State tax credits help rehab former Security, Marquette Buildings

The state approved tax credits to assist with the cleanup and redevelopment of the former Security Building and Marquette Building in downtown St. Louis. The site will be transformed into a mixed-use development including restaurant, commercial and retail space that is expected to create more than 340 jobs.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved up to \$3 million in remediation tax credits through the state's Brownfield Redevelopment Program. The Security Building Partners, LLC and TLG Marquette, LLC will develop the site.

The project involves the cleanup and restoration of the 11-floor Security Building office structure at 319 North Fourth Street and the adjoining 21-story Marquette Building at 314 North Broadway. The tax credits issued by the state will provide assistance for the removal of lead-based paint and asbestos from the site.

Plans for the new complex include a restaurant, commercial office space. In addition, the YMCA is expected to remain in the Marquette Building.

State grant provides home ownership assistance in Boonville

A state grant will help the city of Boonville and Columbia-based Central Missouri Counties Human Development Corporation (CMCHDC) offer affordable housing to low-income families in Boonville.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved a \$100,000 Housing Grant through the Community Development Block Grant program for Boonville and CMCHDC. The funds will be used to provide down payment assistance for 10 families on homes in the Raymond Warnhoff subdivision in Boonville.

CMCHDC acquired the land that will be developed for the construction of the homes. Each of the 10 families will receive assistance via a \$10,000 down payment provided through the CDBG funding.

Ethanol production plant expands, creates new jobs near Laddonia

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved up to \$300,000 in development tax credits to facilitate the location of East Central Ag Products (ECAP) near Laddonia. ECAP is a producer owned ethanol production facility that will create about \$34 million in private investment and 30 new jobs.

Requested by the Laddonia Community Betterment Association, Inc., DED officials approved the development tax credits to offset a donation made to the association by ECAP, leveraging the company's expansion. Funds raised through the tax credits will supplement an Industrial Infrastructure Grant awarded by DED to Laddonia in March.

ECAP Ethanol intends to construct and operate a 20-million-gallon-per year ethanol facility with expansions in two-to-five years. The plant will also produce 60,000 tons of Distillers Dried Grain and Solubles, a feed product for the dairy, beef, poultry and swine industries.

Barton County transportation program receives state funds

The Missouri Department of Economic Development approved an \$110,867 Innovative Grant through the Community Development Block Grant program for Barton County, on behalf of the Barton County Achieving Wellness & Security organization.

Funds will be used for the organization's "Wheels for Workers" program, designed to provide reliable vehicles to low-income residents to help them retain and secure employment. The project will provide 20 families with vehicles and will assist 10 families or individuals with vehicle repairs.

Participants in the program must meet income guidelines made by the Temporary Aid to Need Families (TANF) program. Participants must also be employed, just beginning employment, looking for a job or be a full-time student in training.

Vehicles will be purchased from state surplus, local car dealers or local individuals. The Lamar Vocational Technical School or local shops will make repairs. Once the vehicles pass inspection, they will be matched with a participant, who will be required to make monthly payments for one year. After that time, if the participant has complied with all requirements, the remainder of the loan is forgiven.

Participants are required to follow their employment or training plan, participate in a vehicle maintenance and a budgeting class, maintain a good driving record, possess a valid driver's license, submit a monthly maintenance report and make insurance payments.